

## Letter from Alexander Melville Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, November 1, 1876, with transcript

Home, November 1st, 76. (No envelope) My dear Al.,

I have just received a letter from Paul C. Coom, Albion Orleans Co., N. Y., asking about V. S. publications. Mr. C. says he got "a great many irregular lessons" from you some time ago. He adds that you "thought it pleasanter to put wires into wires and teach than to speak". "And then he preferred to tell me about his instruments, he had a new discovery every day, to giving me any lessons."

This is a very bad professional record. You cannot expect pupils if you teach them this way. However important your discoveries may be they are out of place when so introduced. Nothing would be more impolitic too to the interest of your inventions. Instead of buttonholing unwilling listeners you ought to be reticent on such subjects if you want to gain anything more than the little honour you discerned from "wonder-wounded hearers". Let this case teach you to be more wise, and less weak for the future. I enclose a letter received today from Mr. Ellis and with it I send the papers he refers to. The dialect paper I should be glad to get back. I have received from you three Nos. of "Nature" and one of the "Scientific American"- thanks I will be glad to hear that some business was arranged at your meeting a couple of days ago. All well here and in Town. Love from all for self and Mabel.

Your affectionate father, Alex. Melville Bell.